

**Abstract**

5 The new process allows UV-initiated thermal crosslinking within a hotmelt process for the  
preparation of polyacrylate hotmelt adhesives, in which a polymer is produced from an  
acrylate-based comonomer mixture that includes certain monomers which carry at least  
one functional group which is capable of reacting with a photochemically generated base,  
with or without the addition of a catalyst, and then this polymer is coated onto a backing,  
is irradiated within the coating process or thereafter, and finally is subjected to thermal  
10 treatment, with crosslinking occurring between the polymer and the photochemically  
generated base. Structural crosslinking of the sheetlike pressure-sensitive adhesive can  
be produced if irradiation takes place through a mask.